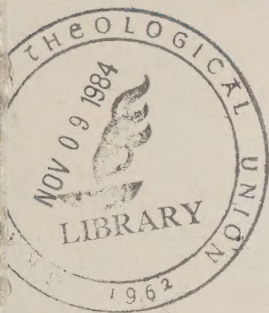


Foursquare World

NOVEMBER, 1984

ADVANCE

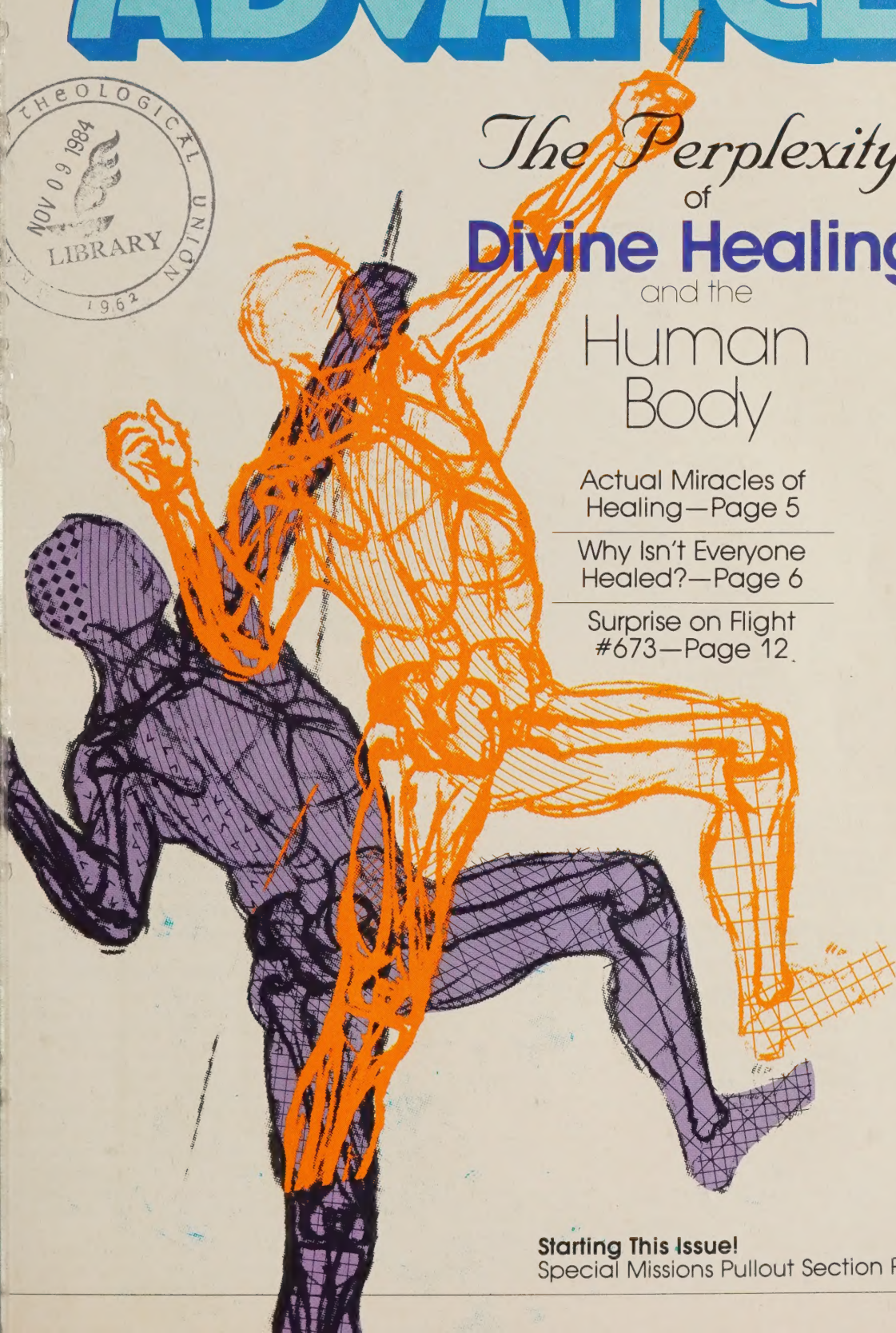


The Perplexity of **Divine Healing** and the Human Body

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Starting This Issue!

Special Missions Pullout Section Pages 7-10

By Janice Pedersen

Whose Idea?

My Toyota Corolla's red speedometer indicator usually finds its home right at the "double nickel" mark (CB talk for 55 mph). But tonight it was gradually approaching 65 mph. I knew I was frustrated. Glancing in my rearview mirror, I could only count the headlights of five other cars. It is not unusual for that particular mountainous portion of the 210 freeway above La Crescenta to be almost deserted in late evening—even if it is in the Los Angeles basin. And I was glad because of it. God and I had some talking to do.

I had just left a friend who has been plagued by an illness for some time now. Dutifully, I had started to talk to God about the situation one more time. But suddenly, I felt I had *had* it. I was fed up.

In human frustration, and in no uncertain terms, I began telling the Lord just what I thought of the situation. I said I was tired of praying; I said I was fed up with sickness; I said I was impatient with His promises which did not seem to hold up.

And I said one other thing.

"Healing was *Your* idea, Lord—not mine. It was never my idea. *You* told the Israelites, 'I am the Lord who heals you' (Ex. 15:26, NKJV). Through David, *You* said that *You* heal all our diseases (cf. Ps. 103:3). And *You* told the disciples that if they laid hands on the sick, the sick would recover (cf. Mk. 16:18)."

I continued high and mighty on my soapbox for some minutes. Then, slowly fading into exhaustion, I determinedly gathered one last breath to say: "Healing was all *Your* idea, Lord. I never fabricated this fantastic concept of divine healing, so the ball is in *Your* court. *You* said to ask for healing; I'm only doing what *You* told me to do."

One lesson was learned from that experience. The concept of divine healing was God's idea; I could do nothing on my part except be diligent in prayer. I *had* prayed, and I had confirmed to myself one more time that the ball was on *His* side of the court. The frustration and pressure I had felt was relieved, and I drove home with peace of mind.

I wonder how much we almost think that divine healing was *our* idea. We begin prayer almost wishing the concept had never been taught, for then we would never be in embarrassing situations attempting to explain the "whys" of unanswered prayer.

You may well remember the following incident in your own life: You are a Bible believing church member or pastor, standing by the bed of one who is ill. All eyes of those in the room are on you. You begin by quoting scriptures on divine healing, then follow by acknowledging verbally that it is God who heals—as if mustering up the courage to perform the miraculous yourself. At about that point, they arrive—slithery, ghostlike "doubts," squeezing effortlessly through the cracks into the room. They head straight for you. That does it. There's no hope now. You turn to mumble an apology....

May I suggest that healing was never your idea? Doesn't that release you from holding the magic wand, if I may use the term? You are not to receive the glory...nor are you to receive the blame. You are to simply fulfill your part of the bargain; that is, you are to ask of God. For me, the phrase, "It is *His* idea," used reverently and with understanding, shifts the responsibility back to the Creator, the Divine Physician Himself.

I acknowledge that "divine healing" can be a tricky topic. That is all the more reason why we need to address the subject. But may I suggest that if divine healing was *His* idea, let us turn over all our human attempts at performing the miraculous, complete with wand and top hat, to Him. If it indeed was *His* idea, then allow *Him* to follow it through.

By John Wimber

It was happening again!

Sunday after Sunday I had been teaching from the book of Luke. Now, for almost 20 weeks, I had been teaching about God's healing power. Often God would prompt me to have an altar call so those who needed prayer could come forward.

Always I obeyed. Yet, no one was healed!

Week after week I watched as dear people with high hopes—who believed what I told them from the Bible—came forward for prayer. Every week we prayed. But no one got well. In fact, some of those who prayed for the sick became ill. We were powerless. I was always so hopeful that God would honor what His Word said. Yet each week was the same. Nothing happened.

Now I was looking in the faces of 50 people who had come forward to receive prayer for healing. Hurting people who wanted our help and the Savior's healing touch that I had promised them from the Scriptures. Again I followed them into our prayer room, accompanied by the men and women who were standing faithfully with me in this discouraging enterprise.

We laid our hands on each of them and prayed, asking God to heal their bodies. Hopefully. Expectantly. With all the faith we had, we prayed for them.

...But nothing happened. Each left our prayer room still sick. I was filled with despair. I was embarrassed, powerless, and helpless to do any more than I had done. I couldn't go on!

I threw myself to the floor and wept. I cried and prayed until there was no strength left in me. I had done all I knew to do. I was mad at God. I was confused. How could I explain what was happening? Wasn't our faith good enough? When I finally lifted my face off the floor, I saw several men who had been crying with me. It was a terrible Sunday!

That was only four years ago!

"I wanted a Christian faith that I could see. One that worked."

With all my heart I believed healing is at the core of what Jesus came to accomplish. But when we set our minds to follow Him in this area, we had no idea how painful the learning process would be. It was almost as if we had to prove our faith by persevering in the face of repeated failure.

But I knew it was that kind of evidential Christian faith I wanted. I wanted a Christian faith that I could see. One that worked. If that were not available to me, I would have had difficulty continuing in the ministry.

It was only after a year of painful praying for the sick that we finally saw people healed. But once it began to happen, it

FOURSQUARE WORLD **ADVANCE** (ISSN 0015-9182)

November, 1984, Volume 21, Number 3

Official publication of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel,
1100 Glendale Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90026

President, Rolf K. McPherson

Editor, Janice L. Pedersen

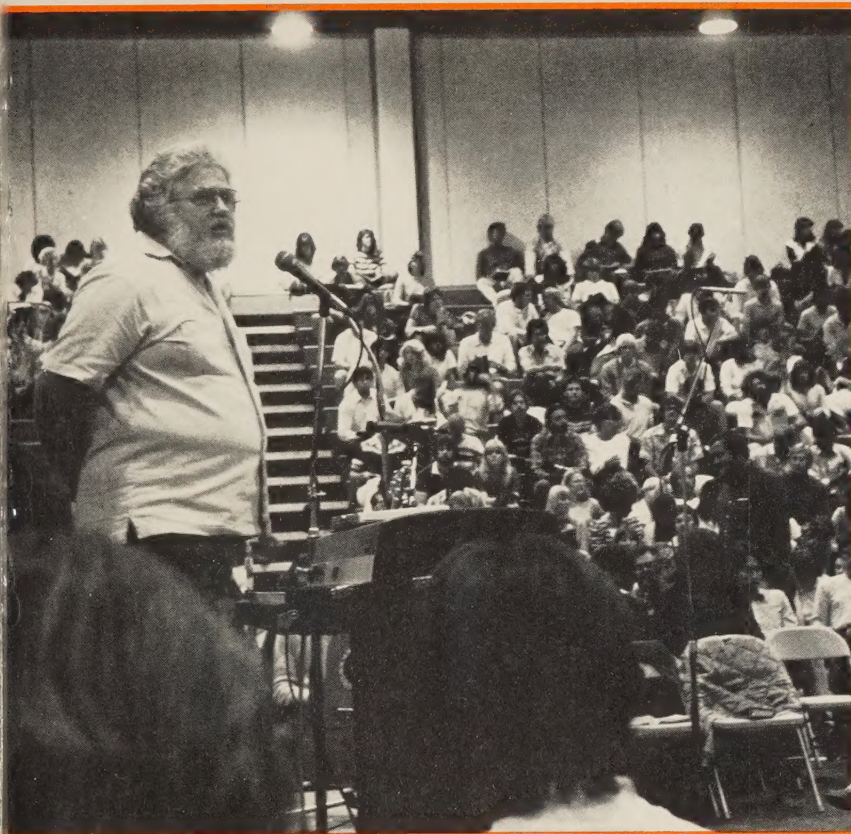
Graphics, Wilbur Waldron, Jr.

Business Manager, John Bowers

Editorial Committee: Daniel Brown, Tim Peterson, Phil Starr, Hallie Tolle. Advisory Committee: Leland Edwards, Roy Hicks, Sr., Paul Jones. Contributing District Supervisors: G.C. Burris, L.T. Charter, R.H. Hicks, Jr., J. Holland, P.E. Jones, J.E. Kurtz, G. Metzler, S.O. Westbrook, F.H. Wymore. also Foursquare Gospel Church of Canada President Victor F. Gardner. Published 10 times annually, with January/February and July/August issues combined, at Los Angeles, California. Second-class postage paid at Los Angeles, California, and at additional offices. Distributed without charge to members and friends of the church. Freewill monetary gifts and offerings accepted, gifts are tax deductible. Send changes of address to mailing secretary 60 days prior to moving date, enclosing the address label showing both old and new addresses. Address all correspondence to the editor, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90026.

2 ADVANCE

Zip to 3,000 in 5 Years



Pastor John Wimber

happened regularly.

Today we see 50 to 100 people a week healed in our services. Many more are healed as we pray for them in hospitals, on the streets and in homes. The blind are seeing. The lame are walking. The deaf are hearing. Cancers are disappearing.

As a pastor, the most exciting part is that these things are occurring primarily through the ministry of my people.

When I started the church five (seven as of this reprint) years ago, I knew that I did not want to build an audience. I wanted to build an army. As a pastor, I began to recognize the high priority of equipping the saints. Today in our church of over 3,000, I would estimate that as many as

20% regularly see someone healed through their prayers.

"Healing was not just my idea. It was something many saw as a part of our mission as a church."

How did it happen? God took us as He found us—broken-bodied refugees from various religious systems—and began to shape us into a believing group of followers who hungered after Him. Along the way God showed me that it was *His* Church and He didn't need *me* to build it!

How did He start? One of the first things God taught us was the value of worship.

In those early days, worship became

vital to us. It was all we could do. We were so weak and sick ourselves we had nothing to offer Him except our praise. As we worshipped God, we began to get well.

Also as time passed, we saw a community mentality beginning to emerge. We began to have one heart and one mind. Out of this, the essential nature of Christian fellowship became a reality in our midst. We really began to care for one another. Small groups sprang up with very little organization. They happened then and continue to happen today because we need them.

Along the way as we got healthier, we began to again pray for the sick.

This has been a long and painful process. But because we were in it together as a body, we did not give up. Healing was not just my idea. It was something many saw as a part of our mission as a church. Today it is a common practice of our church life to see the sick healed.

Techniques are not enough. There must be power from on high. Several years ago, God visited us in power. Until then, we had experienced the presence of God, but in May of 1979, we began to experience His power. Today, our large and small gatherings are characterized by things that I had known about only from history books. Quaking, shaking, falling under the power of God, and the public exercise of spiritual gifts such as words of knowledge and prophecy are commonplace. When this kind of thing first began to occur, I was deeply troubled until I became convinced from the Scriptures and history that it was from the Lord.

I remember clearly the first evening God visited us powerfully.

I stayed up all night searching the Scriptures and my various histories of revivals for assurance that it was from the Lord. Reviewing the Scriptures and historical accounts helped somewhat, but I still had some questions. The fact was that over the next two months we baptized in water 700 new converts as a result of this mighty empowering work of the Holy Spirit.

Today we unapologetically honor the Holy Spirit and what He is doing in our midst. We are moving ahead in His power. We also are learning to live with what we don't understand.

"People in our culture need to see that God is more powerful than the lifestyles they are serving."

Today in America there is a tremendous increase in the occult, spiritism and all sorts of demonic activity. In their search for spiritual reality, people are seeking new

(Continued on p. 14)

Pastor John Wimber and his congregation believed in healing or the sick, but never saw it happen. Instead, often those praying for the sick became sick themselves.

The ADVANCE introduces John Wimber, one of those asked to address the subject of healing at the International Foursquare Convention March 11-17, 1985. Rev. Wimber is founding pastor of Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Yorba Linda, California, and adjunct professor of Church Growth course MC510, "The Miraculous and Church Growth," Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

A Christian woman was very ill—diagnosed as terminal. When she approached a man of God to receive prayer, he sensed she was not ready for prayer. He then instructed her to read every miracle of healing that Jesus performed. She was to read nothing else but that for an entire month. The woman obeyed and, as soon as the man of God laid hands on her, the sickness left.

Wherever I travel today when ministering to the Body of Christ, the topic of "healing" is widely discussed. The Foursquare Church is hungry once again to see signs, wonders, and miracles in these last days. The theme of our next International Foursquare Convention, "Declare the Word—Expect the Wondrous," will depict this very heartbeat March 11-17, 1985.

But, in our eagerness, we must remember two key truths much like the woman in the testimony above. First, we must believe the supernatural is possible.

And second, we must prepare ourselves to receive it. Let me explore with you some of the biblical emphases upon the supernatural.

Remove the Supernatural?

To begin, we would not have a Bible if one were to remove the supernatural from it. The Bible itself came to us as God's Spirit moved upon men to write the infallible Word of God. More than 40 men were used over a span of 1500 years to bring us God's Holy Word without contradicting each other. No book by man concerning the subject of astronomy, medicine, or any other science, can

boast of this achievement.

Not only does our Bible come to us in a supernatural manner, but it is a record of the supernatural among men. God's first chosen nation would have perished in a time of famine had not God sovereignly used Joseph to go before the people into Egypt. They would never have survived their stay there if God had not raised up Moses and, with many signs and wonders, delivered them from the bondage of slavery.

To remove the miracles from the lives of the Old Testament saints would entirely erode the history of this great people. They would not, and could not, have survived as a nation against unbelievable odds to become the vehicle through which Jesus our Lord could be born.

Orville Andrews photo



By Dr. Roy H. Hicks, Sr.

Putting the Supernatural Back in Christian Living

An Unparalleled Existence

Jesus, born of the virgin Mary, escaped King Herod's wrath, was fed by angels in the wilderness, and survived attempts to slay Him through supernatural intervention. His birth, ministry, death and resurrection are unparalleled in the history books of our human race. His was a supernatural existence.

Jesus' countless, uncontested miracles prove His purpose and deity. Without the miracles, Christianity has no heritage and no future. Jesus commanded His followers to go forth and do as He had done. He promised that certain signs would follow them that believe. In His name they would cast out devils, they would speak with new tongues, they would take up serpents without harm, if they drank any deadly thing it would not hurt them, and they would lay hands on the sick and they would recover. They went forth and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them, confirming the Word with signs following. This is found in Mark 16:17-20.

Prepare for Battle

Our Lord Jesus, by this command, fully intended His Church to carry on into a NEW AGE, the supernatural, MIRACULOUS power of God to DELIVER, PROTECT, and to WITNESS. It is not reasonable to say that it takes the supernatural to bring to us God's great, eternal plan...and then expect that very plan to survive without divine involvement. The disciples understood this and obeyed His command to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. They were not to go into the ministry until they were equipped for the supernatural.

Jude, in writing to the Church, stressed that we are to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints (cf. Jude 3). He is referring to the Old Testament ministry of miracles, and even martyrdom. Miracles will not happen unless we contend for them.

If one is desirous to become a contender, he must prepare for the battle. Since our battle is not against flesh and blood but is a spiritual one, we must prepare to do spiritual warfare. This means long seasons of prayer and fasting, and knowing what God's Word declares. It is not wise to be a contender and be ill prepared.

In the days ahead and at our International Convention, we will declare the Word. And we will expect the Wondrous.

Dr. Hicks, General Field Supervisor, will be Chairman at the March International Foursquare Convention at which time the topic of "signs and wonders" will be discussed.



November, 1984

Divine Healing: These Say It Works!

We are not only discussing theory in this brief examination of healing—we are discussing fact. Here are a representative few of the testimonies of healing and miracles that have been consistently sent to the ADVANCE office:

HEART DISEASE

Georgia Stiffler; Goleta, California (9/81): "For my 79th birthday, God gave me an old-fashioned Foursquare miracle healing. My doctor has been treating me for about 25 years, and my heart trouble was of 45 years standing. After our congregation prayed for my health subsequent to surgery, I reported to the doctor.

"I have something amazing to tell you," he said. "Your heart is beating positively on rhythm for the very first time. It is not too slow, and not too fast! Your heart is somehow miraculously healed!"

"I told him about the prayer, and that dear old Christian doctor looked me in the eye, sort of smiled, and said, 'Well, one of us had to heal you!'"

LUNG DISEASE

Linda Thomson; Mira Loma, California (3/82): "Satan was firing on me with both barrels. The doctors diagnosed me as having a large mass on my lung coupled with a branch disease in my right lung. When they took me to the nuclear lab for a test, I glanced up and saw a Bible. Turning to Romans, the words of Romans 8:31 suddenly leaped out: 'What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?' How the prayers from my family, pastors and friends went up to the throne.

"Three days later they did a brocastomy which can be very painful. And let me tell you, they didn't find one thing—not one! The poor doctor was simply dumbfounded. He had been certain of surgery. God is still the Great Physician!"

STROKE

Wayne Westberg; Mira Loma, California (3/82): "God gave us a great Healing and Miracle Service. The week before this service the enemy attacked nearly everyone in our church, but God healed every one of them including my own sister who had a stroke and lost part of her speech. She is alert and with perfect speech. God also healed me of a strained back."

INFANT HEALING

Matthew Holbert; Redding, California: Pastor David Borgeson reports Matthew Holbert (age 1 week) was not expected to live. After prayer he was able to come home from the hospital. The doctors say it's a miracle.

SUPERNATURAL WARNING

Daniel Charron; Welland, Ontario (8/84): Daniel is praising God for His protection while working in construction. Certain jobs require working in holes that are dug 2 feet wide and 8-10 feet deep. One day God impressed him to turn around and take notice that the wall was beginning to crumble. He had just enough time to get out of the hole before the wall collapsed.

ARTHRITIS

Gary Chartier; St. Powell River, British Columbia (7/84): Gary reports a healing from arthritis in his church congregation. Even though this Christian woman had suffered from arthritis for two years, the doctor advised that all medication be stopped. Reason: he could no longer find any trace of the disease.

MALIGNANT TUMORS

John Harvey; Fresno, California (9/82): "I was to prepare for radiation treatments, because of malignant tumors. Not permitted to touch anything once they had given me the radiation, I was to be shut up in my room for 24 to 36 hours.

"But I just knew God was going to do something great in my body. And sure enough, during my morning devotion in the hospital, Jesus spoke to my heart and said, 'Son, you are healed.'"

"After radiation, I was awakened around noon by the doctor checking the radiation count. It was very high. Returning about 3:30 p.m., I was put on a scanner and I could hear the doctors talking in the next room. 'This cannot be right,' they said, puzzled. Just at noon, the count had been so high that the doctor could not stay in my room. Yet by 3:30 p.m., all radiation had already left my body. I had not been sick from the treatments, had no pain, and this was baffling to the doctors.

"Back in my room, the nurse said, to me, 'Reverend, I have worked in this department for a number of years, and never have I witnessed anything like this.' The call came that I was free to go home. These are the words of the doctor: 'We don't understand what has happened, but something wonderful has happened to your body.' I feel great today, and thank God, who 'healeth all thy diseases' (Ps. 103:3)."

Why Even Ask for Healing?

Simply put, why should we ask to be healed?

1 Because It Is A Solemn Command

When God has expressly declared that He is the Healer of His people, both in His Word and in living example, are they at liberty to treat this ministry of His with complacent indifference?

God has declared Himself as the Healer of His people (Ex. 15:26, 23:25; Dt. 30:20; Ps. 103:3). Shall we obey and trust Him or not? Are we free to choose?

2 Because of Spiritual Blessing

Let it not be forgotten that Satan is the source of disease, and that sickness is not simply a physical condition, but the reflection of a spiritual condition. Sin caused sickness; Satan caused sin.

The fact is that, whenever a Christian receives healing from the supernatural touch of God, there is always a glorious spiritual blessing which accompanies it, proving that there is a spiritual condition behind the disease. James says, "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:15). Here is the spiritual result.

Two respected men of the Word answer your questions on healing.

3 Because It Is Glorifying To God

Some have taught that there are sicknesses which are for the glory of God. No scripture states this concept. A very simple study will show that glory to God was brought, not while the persons were sick, but when they were healed. See the following: the palsied man let down through the roof (Mt. 9:8), the multitudes (Mt. 15:31), the raising of the widow's son at Nain (Lk. 7:16).

In regard to the sickness of Lazarus, where Jesus said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God" (Jn. 11:4), it is quite plain that no one gave any glory to God until after Lazarus was raised from the tomb. God wants to be glorified in our healing.

??

Why Isn't Everyone Healed?

IF the Lord is JEHOVAH our Physician and never changes; if healing is provided in the atonement of Jesus Christ; if sickness is the work of the Devil and Jesus was manifested to destroy the works of the Devil; if God is all-powerful; and if the Lord is full of compassion, *why then* are not all who are prayed for instantly healed of their diseases?

We must conclude that the fault does not lie with God. It must be with man; either in the one prayed for or in those who pray. Why some are not immediately healed can be explained by the following suggested reasons.

1 Some Seek Healing Before Salvation

Divine healing is one of the covenant blessings from the Lord. It is for the children of the kingdom, the members of the family of God. As our Heavenly Father, God has taken a solemn responsibility to provide for His own. This is not true concerning those who, because of their unbelief, are outside the family fold. This is not to say that God will not sometimes heal those who are unsaved. Experience has taught that this is so, but there is no promise which the unsaved can claim.

2 Some Seek Healing For Wrong Purposes

The Lord does not heal simply that people may be more comfortable, or that they may use their health in selfish, worldly pursuits. James says: "Ye ask, and receive

not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3). Healing should be for the glory of God, and for His service.

3 Some Look To The Minister Rather Than To Christ

While it is true that God uses human channels to bring to pass His marvelous works, it is important that the one seeking healing look beyond the channel to the Source, and realize that no minister can heal anyone. Jesus alone is the Great Physician.

4 Disobedience

As we have noted, from Exodus 15:26, healing is conditioned on obedience to the Word and the will of God. If one has been disobedient regarding commitments made to the Lord, or is resisting God's will in his life, it is doubtful if he can expect to be healed.

5 Because Of Some Unconfessed Sin In The Life

Healing is not a reward for personal holiness. It comes by the grace of God, as all other blessings purchased at the Cross. But known sin in the believer's life will hinder faith and the reception of what the Lord has provided. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Ps. 66:18). "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that ye may be healed" (James 5:16).

6 Because Of Unbelief

In the one who prays: "The prayer of

faith shall save the sick" (James 5:15). In the one prayed for: "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

7 Failure To Stand In Faith Until The Answer Comes

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Heb. 10:36). While those to whom Jesus, and the early disciples, ministered received healing virtually immediately, there seem to be times when there is a delay in the manifestation of the victory. Daniel experienced a dramatic delay when he sought the Lord for 21 days. After this time, the word of the Lord came to him: "Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day...thy words were heard..." (see Dn. 10:12-14).

Disease comes from Satan, and there will be times when he will seek to hinder the deliverance. We need to believe God's Word and stand in faith until the answer is manifested.



Excerpts taken from *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology*, written by Dr. Guy P. Duffield and Dr. N.M. Van Cleave, Copyright 1983 by L.I.F.E. Bible College at Los Angeles, California. Used by permission. All Scripture quotations taken from the King James Version.

VISION

4

MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA

The Vision Begins

The hard concrete on which the girl knelt was freezing cold where it touched her bare knees, and her hands tightly clutching the seat of the wooden chair were hot and dripping with



Numbering 500,000,000, the varied cultures of the Africans can blend ancient traditions with an awareness of space age technology.

perspiration, but the girl was aware of neither. Her attention was focused solely on one objective. Nothing was going to distract her. Dorothy Lewis, home from college, was determined that summer of 1923 that God should take complete control of her life.

Suddenly, in answer to her



Africa has beckoned earnest missionaries for years. Robert Moffat challenged the young David Livingstone when he said, "I have seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been before...."

determination, she saw with spiritual eyes a banner emblazoned with John 3:16. Just as quickly, the words dissolved. To her amazement, she saw rolling grassy hills dotted with thousands of grazing sheep in an African setting.

Then the Lord spoke, "These are thousands and thousands who have never known that I love them. Will you go and tell them?"

After a moment of final soul-searching, Dorothy acknowledged her missionary yearnings and quickly said "Yes."

The vision did become real. Dorothy soon felt the wind from those hills cool her face and heard the loud bleating of sheep sounding in her ears, for Dorothy and Frank Ziegler became the pioneers of Foursquare's first work. Dorothy had trained at L.I.F.E. Bible College, met and fell in love with Frank Ziegler, and eventually married him. Then the call had come in 1929—they were commissioned to South Africa!

The Zieglers built a work on the rolling grassy hills of The Transkei, a work that is still spreading throughout South Africa. Their full story is a dual testimony about the Zieglers' dedication to the cause of Christ and



In a vision, Dorothy Ziegler saw thousands of Africans symbolized by sheep in an African setting. Afterwards, Jesus said to her, "They don't know I love them. Will you tell them?"



The "pioneer" family that brought the Foursquare Gospel to Africa. Frank and Dorothy Ziegler with their children, Darlene, Lewis, Emegene and Bernadine.

God's limitless ability to order the affairs of men to His own purpose.



But looking back, the story of our mission to Africa is not the account of one person, one work or even one people. It is a story crafted together like a mosaic. The turbid colors of tragedy are lightened by the glowing colors of achievement. The earthen colors of culture are given strong texture by respect and understanding. And the bright flecks of individual lives and ministries are bound to the whole by love, faith and tenacity.

VISION: "And when He saw the crowds He was touched with pity for them, because they were distressed and were fainting on the ground like sheep which have no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is abundant, but the reapers are few; therefore entreat (pray) the Owner of the Harvest to send out reapers into His fields'" (Matt. 9:36-38, Wey.).

**ADVANCING
THROUGH THE
1980's
1990's
2000**

The Vision Today

One would not guess, with the calm water of the Niger river cooling the feet of the little ones while parents harvest cocoa, corn and rice, that Nigeria could be called the LIGHTNING ROD OF AFRICA. But Nigeria—the most populous of Africa's 57 nations—is being strongly impacted by the gospel. Shock waves are being felt across all Africa.

Harold and Fay Curtis led Foursquare's first thrust into Nigeria in 1954. Even though this would be seen as a strategic missionary effort for Foursquare on the continent of Africa in the years following, at the beginning, a lack of finances and



These Nigerians represent hundreds more who are growing in the Word. The gospel's impact on Nigeria is being felt throughout all Africa.

personnel limited their work. But during the last decade (since 1975), the VISION for evangelism has electrified Nigerian Foursquare churches. Reverberating with visionary fervor, their resources are cascading into giving and service.

Today, 150 national ministers serve 100 congregations (well exceeding the 20 churches in 1972), teach and staff one Bible college, evangelize vast areas and run youth camps throughout the nation. Workers at the National Office administer the publication of



In the last decade, Nigerian churches focused their resources on spreading the gospel. As a result, many new churches were established.

Christian education materials and the establishment of youth ministries in local churches. In 1983 especially, the Nigerians' resources of workers and finances mushroomed for evangelism, missions and church planting; and their vision is large and wrapped in faith and action.

South Africa and Nigeria are just two pieces in our Foursquare Africa mosaic; many people saw the VISION and willingly got down to work. It is impossible to name them all, but here are a few of the prime movers: **Frank and Dorothy Ziegler**, South Africa, 1929. **Harold and Fay Curtis**, Nigeria, 1954. **Lewis and Arlene Ziegler**, South Africa, since 1954. **Joe and Donna Babcock**, Nigeria, 1964 and currently. **Mitchell and Rose Belobaba**—current strategists of our Africa vision since 1972 to date. **Samuel Odunaike**—"a man all Africa listens to," Nigeria, 1966. **Simon Odeleye**, Republic of Benin, 1970. **Bisi Orebayo**, Ghana, 1974. **Emanuel Aladerin**, Liberia, 1983. **Jimoh Kassem**, Kenya, 1984.

Tremendous strides were made among East African nations in 1982 and 1983. Calls came from Zambia, Zaire and Malawi. Each of these countries now have growing

Foursquare congregations within their borders.

And now, *African Foursquare churches are sending Africans!* They—themselves—have taken on the responsibility of evangelizing Africa. Seeing the vision...hearing the call, Nigerians have gone to Benin, Ghana and Liberia. Zambians to Zaire. Malawians to Mozambique.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In the First Century, the Apostle Paul envisioned a Macedonian calling for help—help to break out of their eternal terror, help to overwhelm the leprosy of sin, help to give life and power to



Pastor James Boyejo has served many years in the Yaba City church and beyond. Today, 150 other ministers like him serve 100 congregations and administer programs throughout Nigeria.

their people.

Today, our African brothers and sisters are calling to the North American Church for the same things. Their continent abounds with 500,000,000 people. Millions have yet to even hear Christ's name. Consider how you might give life and power to this vast multitude....

Our **Master Plan** calls for 6-10 qualified missionary personnel units from North America to be placed in strategic regions of Africa. These people will work with nationals and help build training centers for believers aspiring to ministry. Let us move into the "Enlarged Vision" to see how this will be done.

The Enlarged Vision

The time is now, a time of **ASSERTIVE STEWARDSHIP**. The cause of Christ demands from us an in-depth appraisal of our motives and an aggressive investment of our lives for Africa. To do less would ignore why Christ came—to redeem every person.



This is a time of **ASSERTIVE STEWARDSHIP**. How can you invest prayer, service and money into our African work?

Bearing this concept in mind, Foursquare International has chosen to advance our work through this concentrated effort....

BY 1990: Foursquare has envisioned to establish: 1) a church in every English speaking nation of Africa and Madagascar, and 2) works in at least four French speaking nations as well.

This expansion into Africa depends on developing viable educational programs which can provide appropriate training for national workers. It also depends on the earnest support from the North American Church, as you can see by the following three couples being sent from North America:

RY 1985: A seasoned couple will begin supervising our works in **Zambia, Malawi and Zaire**. In addition,

Zimbabwe and western Tanzania have also been targeted in which to establish pioneer works.

BY 1987: Another couple will start a **training base** in one of the French speaking nations of Africa. **Ivory Coast** is the most likely nation, since it is considered the most advanced and literate nation of this group.

BY 1988: A couple will be appointed to supervise **Kenya, Uganda, Eastern Tanzania, Sudan and Ethiopia**.

North Africa is targeted for 1990. Due to the heavy Muslim population in this area of the continent and their hostility towards Christianity, progress with the gospel has been minimal.

HIDDEN PEOPLES: The thought-provoking picture of Foursquare's African Vision isn't complete until we express our plans for Africa's Hidden Peoples. Africa's total number of Hidden People groups is not entirely identified or enumerated. Latest estimates indicate that there are *at least 1300 Hidden People groups* representing in excess of *50 million* people. They usually reside on national borders and sometimes occupy vast areas.

As a rule, these people resist the gospel because they have exclusive, closed cultures. They have also resisted conversion for years because they don't want to abandon practices inconsistent to God's Word. But it is possible to reach the Hidden Peoples, if we carefully distinguish between scriptural demands and Western impositions.



African believers are depending on us to help current and future generations to break loose from the power of sin and the enemy.

Rev. Mitchell Belobaba is our **Regional Representative** and current **strategist** for the continent of **Africa**. He and his wife, **Rose**, have served in Africa since 1972.



A Vision with Clarity

The North American Church must give with new understanding. **The most effective way to reach Africans is to send Africans to evangelize Africans.**

The North American Church must, however, **send selected missionaries capable of training African personnel.** Africans are sending out Africans, but they are requesting experienced, committed, seasoned missionaries to partner with them to do it more effectively. The cry is for career and short-term missionary teacher/trainers.

The North American Church must **print and disseminate evangelistic and other religious literature** throughout Africa. Exorbitant paper costs and lack of equipment have limited African believers from doing it all by themselves.

Literature cannot be neglected. It has proven to be one of the most

effective evangelistic tools available.

Africa, Africa. How Christ longs to gather its people like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings (cf. Matt. 23:37). ...Can you hear the call of Jesus? A monumental ingathering waits for the harvesters. There has never been a greater opportunity for the Church to communicate His love to



Exorbitant paper costs and a lack of equipment have hindered Africans from printing much needed religious literature. The North American Church has helped greatly to meet the need.

a nation, a continent, a world.

The Holy Spirit is renewing us so that we may focus on the African horizon and envision the LIGHT OF CHRIST dawning over a vast array of places and people. Never before have our people, their creativity, money, talent and prayer been more needed.

The question is simple, "Will you go, take My message? Or, will you be a sender? Will you pray?" Foursquare is looking for people like Dorothy Ziegler who will—in their own way—quickly say "YES!"



Literature has proven to be one of the most effective evangelistic tools available. It cannot be neglected.

THE COST OF THE VISION

"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21, KJV).

VISION: AFRICA is your invitation to evangelize a multiplicity of people who God cherishes.

What will it cost to build Christ's kingdom in Africa? To financially realize VISION: AFRICA, it will cost nearly \$300,000 a year (or over \$24,000 a month). It may seem impossible, but it's not! Think about it...if only 600 believers (i.e. a single church, group of churches, or district) would give \$40 a month (\$10 a week) for the next two years, then Foursquare Missions International can not only establish, but maintain and expand the work. Could you give \$40, \$25, or \$10 each month toward this vital effort?

VISION: AFRICA is possible and you can be involved. Don't be limited. We CAN do it together. If God has put it on your heart, can you afford not to give? Your heart goes with your treasure. Let your heart and your treasure journey to Africa.

Send your gifts for "AFRICA" through your local church or to Foursquare Missions International, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.



You've Got WHAT In That Box?!

By Ben Young



That wasn't the way we had planned it.

In answer to a need from Foursquare Missions International during the spring of 1983, a team of 12, ages 16 to 60-plus, was trained to build a Headquarters Church in Accra, Ghana. We were to send all materials from here in the United States.

Preparation continued from February to May, when finally the 40-foot container was loaded with steel, metal, glass, windows, door frames, tools, electrical transformers and lighting, ladders, food for a one-month stay, and 3,000 Bibles. When we closed the door there was $\frac{3}{4}$ " of space left unused. Since I had a chief part in the design and shipping, I was to go ahead of the team by two weeks to receive the container and prepare for building.

Arriving in Ghana

on June 12, I discovered a famine and military rule. Four days later,

another military coup took place to overthrow the existing government. They asked \$175,000 U.S. dollars duty tax. On top of this, we were informed that the remaining members of the team would not be allowed visas. In addition, the ship was late and our food supply was in the container. And finally, I discovered to my surprise an old wooden church that had to be torn down before a new one could be built in its place!

For six weeks while I waited for the ship, I ate a simple national diet of fish heads and corn paste, the only food available provided by the church members. If you ever want to lose weight, try this. I lost 32 pounds in six weeks.

The ship did arrive, and through the power of prayer, and work with many sectors of the military government, national pastor Reginald Barnor and I thankfully gained permission to receive the building material into the country duty free.

So here I finally was, me and my "box," and

no trained team to help. But I learned that if God's will is in something, He will give you the ability, power and strength to complete the job. With a few of the local people, we started demolition of the old church and used the wood for the cement foundation forms of the new building. At one point we borrowed a grader for site leveling and a crane to raise the one-ton beams into place. Our small local team used over 12 tons of dry bulk cement in the foundation and floor, constructed the entire church, including its altar, baptistry, pulpit and church offices. It took two months and 10 days.

I will admit that it wasn't easy. But I found that if you make yourself available to God, He will show you many wonders. The Missions Task is a great challenge, but you have to risk to simply trust God.

Ben Young, a member of "Church on the Way," the Van Nuys, California, Foursquare Church, is an actor of 24 years and has interests in real estate, property management, and construction



Surprise on Flight #673

The slightly greying, fortyish looking man walked up to the podium under the yellow canopy. He had a look in his eyes that resembled the delight of a grade schooler about to witness his teacher actually landing on the tack.

American Airlines flight #673 from Harrisburg to Chicago was an inaugural flight scheduled this July 2, 1984. Dignitaries ranging from the company president to several mayors from the surrounding cities were there. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the hors d'oeuvres and champagne as a part of the celebration.

The afternoon, from all appearances, seemed to be a normal promotional affair. Presenting the first passenger on the inaugural trip to Chicago seemed the novel way to handle a press meeting as well.

The irony of the exchange that would occur within the next few minutes would be so tantalizing to any inquisitive mind that it would be reported in papers and news broadcasts across the nation, and TIME magazine would even run a piece of the affair at the Harrisburg Airport.

The "Iceman"

None was more astounded with the presentation than the man receiving the commemoration himself, Ron Rearick, the ICEMAN. Ron's excitement with the whole thing rested in the knowledge of the past from which he had been freed. He thought to himself, "God, you really do have a sense of humor."

Ron stood on the platform with the promotional woman for the airlines. As she placed the plaque into his hand, he simultaneously handed her a thin, blue book with the picture of Ron's face within a melting ice block...the word ICEMAN in bold white letters across the top. The story of Ron's life. The name ICEMAN for years had been an alias. He had actually first been called "Ice" in the penitentiary after gouging out another inmate's eye with his thumb, many years ago. Later it gradually became "ICEMAN."

Smiling, he said, "I thought you might like this." Rearick didn't expect her to pay much attention to the book at the time. But she did quickly glance at the front and back covers. Glance at it she did, and caught the brief rundown designed as a grabber on the back.

Her eyes widened. Her countenance dropped and a slight gasp could be detected. She paced to the other company officials and quickly read off the by-line in dismay. Ron Rearick, the man standing and grinning with the smile five miles wide, had 12 years earlier extorted (by bomb threat) one million dollars from a United Airlines flight bound from Salt Lake City.



The politicians moved from view of the TV cameras...as the company officials apprehensively huddled up. The silence of the fallen planet, had once again been interrupted by a humorous confrontation with the evidence of a life-changing God.

Marked by the "Hanging Judge"

Ron slipped back to the past in his mind...yes, he really had done it! He remembered that afternoon in 1972. It was a hot, balmy day...or maybe it was just his nervous perspiration that made it seem that way. The calls to United had been made and the plans laid for the getaway...the final heist that would end his subservience to the mob he had become beholden to and at the same time sickened by. He would never again have to break a leg or mess up a face for the family. No more jaunts to the joint. A million bucks...freedom and happiness would finally be his.

The shock of having the F.B.I. cars surround him and agents pull him from his car still sent tremors up and down his spine. Once again he laughed about how he convinced them (though ever so briefly) that he had found the money in the phone booth as an innocent bystander.

The trial date some months later; what a scene that had been! Judge Ritter, the "hanging judge," marked him a "habitual criminal." The words "habitual criminal" still went through his mind with reverberations from a sci-fi movie. "Habitual criminal"...that was another way of saying he was a hopeless casualty of our society. "Habitual criminal" status also meant he could be kept behind bars for life.

How alone he had felt that day. Foolishly threatening a 72-year-old judge that he would kill him when he got out. No more second chances. He was history. Ron cringed as he rehearsed his bitterness that day in the Salt Lake City courtroom.

Ron had become a pro at prison life. He should have been after spending 20 years in every brand of prison imaginable, including a term in a German prison for marketing

drugs. He knew how to get comfortable and survive; in fact, thrive if he decided to.

A Wise Old Con

Rearick's smile broadened as he came back to the present long enough to see a man peer up from the American Airlines huddle. Ron wondered if they were having trouble believing the story. If asked, he would tell them he did too, at times. But he had been checked out by radio station managers, police, and school officials repeatedly...it was true...yes, every word of the ICEMAN's story had happened.

Ron drifted back into the past again, possibly just to help himself realize once again the power that was now confronting these folks today.

The face of the old con that had talked to him that day came into mind's view. Man! How he had grown to love that hardened face. He had, in fact, dedicated his book to him.

The old convict's words had been, "Ron, you can be anything you want here at McNeil (McNeil Island Penitentiary). We have the best to teach you...safe men...counterfeiters...securities frauds...hit men...smugglers. Anything you want, you can be. But son, just let me tell you, until you get hold of the Lord, you'll never be happy or free anyway." And turning to walk away, the old man took a Bible from under his coat and placed it in Ron's hand.

Ron had learned long ago that you didn't get old in prison by being a patsy. So he took the Bible without a remark, stuck it under his shirt and headed back to his cell.

A lump would still rise in his throat sometimes when he recalled what he felt that night in the eight-man cell. He had knelt down and given his life to Christ. He didn't really know what to do at first. So he had just prayed..."Lord, if you can take this life and make something out of it, please do."

Things he had wanted to confess for years had begun pouring from his mouth. He had gone on for nearly two hours, just crying and confessing...crying and confessing. After a 25-year career in crime, there was plenty to cover with the Man. Streams of refreshing water seemed to pour over him as he prayed...it had been so long since he had cried...and it felt so good to let out everything that had been bottled up inside.

"I'm On Your Side Now"

His last day in a court room; and what a day that had been! He had been afraid to ask God to get him out, and was startled when he received word he was going back to Judge Ritter's court. He called his lawyers who said he was probably going to get more time, but they hadn't heard anything



"Take the Plaque, Not the Plane"

—Headline in TIME magazine

July 16, 1984

definite from the court.

Judge Ritter had just turned to ICEMAN's attorneys and asked if they knew why he was there. Then he turned to the prosecutor and asked, "Sir, do you know why Mr. Rearick is with us today?" Both sides of the aisle had responded, "No." The judge's words came out with a note a self-perplexity as he said, "That's right...I just found it in my heart to release you the other night. Sentence dismissed."

Ron later found that Jack Anderson was in the courtroom that day, along with students and professors from some of the most prestigious schools in the country, to find out the why of his release.

Ron knew even today, he was the only one not in prison or dead that had messed with a plane.

It had been a long 11 years since those

days, filled with ups and downs. He thought of the thousands of students he had since told his story to (some years speaking to as many as 250,000 with nearly unanimous receptivity). He had spoken for the Pentagon, political groups, hundreds of churches and high school assemblies.

The journey from convict...to ex-con...to high school assembly speaker...to evangelist...to pastor...to being ordained as a minister for the Foursquare denomination and now Assisting Pastor in Kirkland, Washington, seemed incredible to him now.

He walked to the huddle of airline officials and politicians and laughingly said, "By the way, I'm not in that business anymore...I'm on your side now." Many friends were made that day.

The media picked up on the story, and

almost before Ron could get home, the story had crossed the nation. Just another day in the life of ICEMAN...now known by his friends and family as MARSHMELLOW MAN.

As radio news commentator Paul Harvey said on his coverage of the Harrisburg incident, "The rest of the story is...the plane landed safely in Chicago."

Rev. Murren, a free-lance writer, is the pastor of East-side Foursquare Church, Bellevue/Kirkland, Washington.

The book ICEMAN, by Mari Hanes and Ron Rearick, is available for \$5.95 plus \$1.00 postage. Send checks, payable to "ICEMAN," to ICEMAN, P.O. Box 6384, Bellevue, WA 98007.





It's impossible to picture the death grasp that Satan wants to gain over the world. It's equally hard to portray the impact that godly Foursquare youth have on the enemy's plan when they pray and contend for the faith. This poster entitled, "Break It Loose—Set It Free," is an effort to place these very real forces in perspective.

The most important question among today's youth does not primarily deal with what it costs to be a Christian. And today's youth are not concerned with tabulating the benefits that come with following Christ. They only want to know, "Is it powerful enough to change the world in which we live?"

Foursquare youth and Missions International are teaming up as "World Changers" for the kingdom of God. The practical areas of giving, going and praying are the means through which they will accomplish their goals. Look for the materials and strategies which will be sent to all Foursquare churches. You'll recognize the theme...

**Break It Loose—Set It Free
The Devil's Had It Long Enough.**

Zip to 3,000 (Continued from p. 3)

modes of religious thought. The West is looking East for a faith.

We believe that Jesus ministered in power to the total man. His message was not for the mind alone; it also was for the spirit and body. Jesus preached, taught and healed. We believe this kind of balanced ministry is needed today if the Church is to minister as Jesus intends.

People in our culture need to see that God is more powerful than the lifestyles they are serving. We are discovering that scripturally defined signs and wonders are playing a major role in getting the gospel message out to a nation that needs help and spiritual direction.

But our ministry style does not flow directly from the prewar models of the faith healers. We are a body ministry.

Men and women alike have the power and authority to pray for the sick and to minister in all the spiritual gifts. Some are more adept than others, but no one is exempt. The ministry is for everyone.

We believe that God is at work in the world today as never before. We fully expect Him to intervene in world affairs and in our lives. We encourage each other to "expect God to do more than you have ever believed Him to do or have ever seen Him do." Our spiritual muscles are expanding. And we are willing to interpret and understand our experiences as we go.

March 11-17

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Expect the Wondrous!"**

Mark 16:20



**Angelus Temple
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Raymond Cox, Th.D.

current & events & comments

A Sure Cure for Stress

Symptoms of stress are as old as the garden of Eden (cf. Gen. 3:10), but the term "stress" was not applied to emotional or psychological complaints until almost 30 years ago when psychiatrist Hans Seyle borrowed the word from physics in connection with his experiments on rats. The English word comes from the French "d'estresse" and is a shortened form of our word "distress."

Today, physicians cite stress as a common diagnosis both of physical and emotional complaints. Some practitioners may over-generalize by lumping ills they

cannot otherwise explain under the catch-all diagnoses of stress or virus.

Claims for workmen's compensation are multiplying in virtually every state by allegedly stressed-out employees. And claimants have collected big bucks for seemingly incredible stressors. Assistant Attorney General Brad Scheminske of Oregon cited a custodian who collected compensation for months because of stress induced by her supervisor's "stopping by to watch her clean windows." Even more outlandish claims have been filed against our churches. However, courts are now overturning some awards where stressors proved to be based on misperceptions rather than realities.

While stress does manifest itself in psychological and emotional symptoms, the root cause of stress is spiritual and the best cure for stress is spiritual. Now, as the *Saturday Evening Post* pointed out years ago, "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting but has not been wanted and not been tried." Philippians 4 prescribes the cure. Our problem is applying the remedy. It does work, when we practice it.

Paul prescribes a combination of ingredients. The first is *endeavor to get along with people* (cf. Phil. 4:2-3). This effort sometimes fails. David complained, "I am for peace; but when I speak, they are

for war" (Ps. 120:7, KJV). But the attempt should be made.

The apostle's second "ingredient" commands, "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil. 4:4, KJV). This is ever possible because rejoicing represents an act of the will.

The third ingredient also requires an act of the will, the abandonment or renunciation of worry and anxiety and its replacement by intense prayer and thanksgiving with reference to the stressors which would otherwise induce trauma (vs. 6).

The final ingredient likewise enlists acts of the will: "Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about" (vs. 8, LB).

If we brood about our stressors, they overcome us. If we practice Philippians 4:2-8, we overcome them!

Dr. Cox is the pastor of the Salem, Oregon, Foursquare Church.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wrong Brand of Paint Used?

"I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for the Foursquare World *ADVANCE*. Your efforts serve thousands in the Body of Christ.

"The purpose of this letter is to register my concern regarding the July/August theme: 'Painting America Foursquare.' This phrase smacks of a denominationalism which leaders of our movement have tried to avoid. Although it's a more cumbersome title, 'Painting America with the Foursquare Gospel' would be much more in keeping with our historical ideals. In the early days when 'Around the World with the Foursquare Gospel' was not only a repeated slogan but a sincere goal, it was said with the understanding that Angelus Temple had been 'dedicated to the cause of worldwide interdenominational evangelism.'

"I agree wholeheartedly with the vision of planting Foursquare churches across America, and that is a goal for us in England as well. But we must be careful lest we project the impression that our aim is more the growth of a denomination than the spread of

the kingdom of God. Thank you for listening to my observations."

—Howard Manthe; Rainham, England

Pioneering Aloha Style...Aloha, OREGON Style, That Is

"I read with great interest the July/August issue of *ADVANCE* devoted to 'pioneer' ministry. I said, as I'm sure you did too, 'Wow!' Incredible statistics like: one Foursquare church planted somewhere on the globe every eight hours.

"I read with interest especially because I am a pioneer pastor. But here in Aloha, Oregon, 'pioneering Aloha style' to my wife and I has meant watching our average Sunday morning attendance grow from 25 to 43 to a current 27. Paul used the word 'wrestle' to describe one aspect of the Christian life. Pioneering is wrestling, wrestling with several very important 'opponents':

"GOD. We wrestle to know Him more. We wrestle for His blessing on our life and ministry. He cripples our sinful flesh. Then He allows us to prevail! Pray that we can call the places we pioneer 'Peniels' because we have, by His grace, prevailed through seasons of spiritual darkness to see God face to face.

"SELF. The day finally arrived when I was pastoring a church. When the service ended,

never before had I been so conscious of my weaknesses or so certain of my inadequacy to lead even the tiny flock God had given. But He spoke to me about my self worth, that I was more important to Him than my ministry—I'm first and foremost a son, and then a servant. Pray for us that we live and minister with confidence because we are secure in Him.

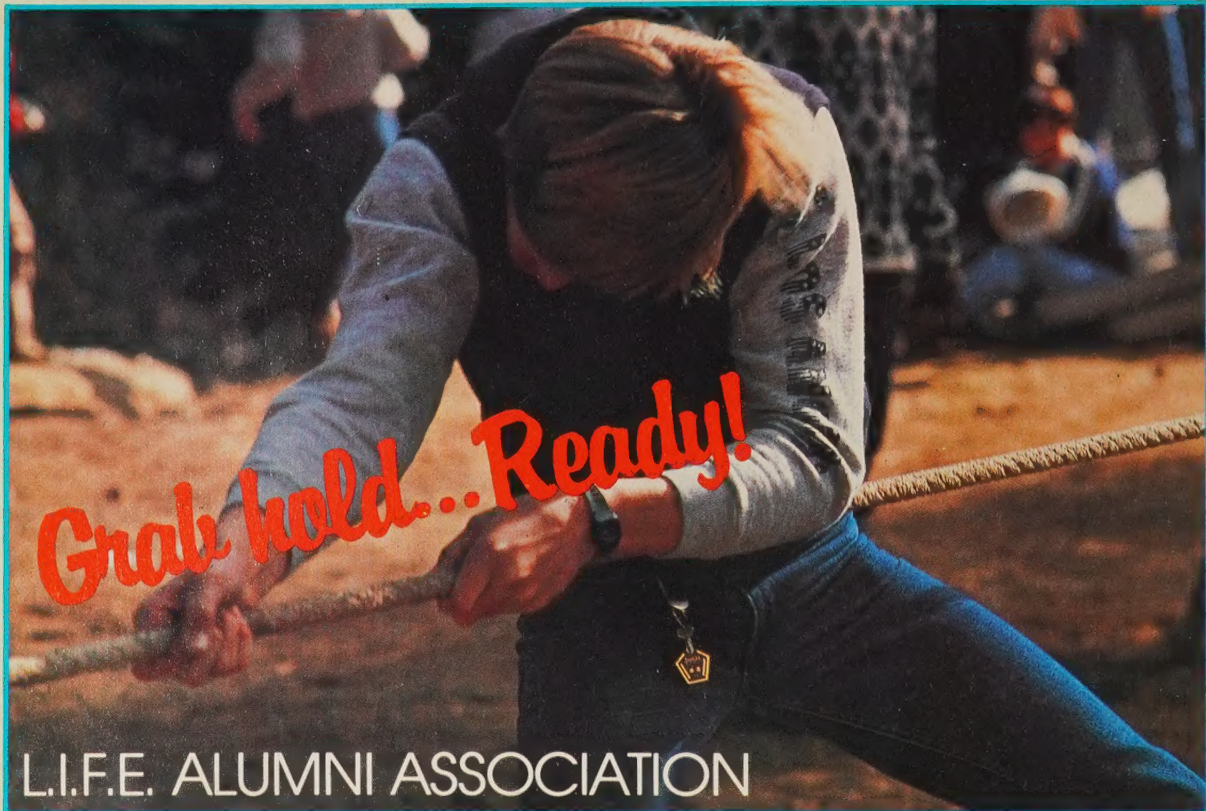
"VALUES. We formerly served on the staff of a wonderful church. Without realizing it, that ministry (the men, methods and 'machinery') became our definition of the ministry: big and beautiful. Pray that pioneer pastors will embrace God's values, believing for 'bigger and more beautiful,' but saying with St. Francis, 'I'll accept what I cannot change in the present.'"

—Keith Reetz; pastor, Aloha Foursquare Church; Aloha, Oregon

Foursquare Pastor Wins Primary

Rev. Robert B. Scribner, pastor of the Pacific Palisades, California, Foursquare Church, won the primary election for the 27th U.S. Congressional District. Pastor Scribner met with President Ronald Reagan at the White House on June 19.

We enjoy hearing from our readers. Letters are edited for space and conciseness. Write to The Editor, *ADVANCE*, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.



Grab hold... Ready!

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